

## Can I put compostable food service products in my residential food and yard waste cart?

Several new products like cups, trays, and take-out boxes are marked 'compostable' or 'biodegradable'. However, only *some* of these products are accepted in Seattle's residential food and yard waste cart. Other products don't break down at our local composting facility, or aren't easily distinguishable, which is needed to help prevent contamination. Before you put compostable food service products in your residential food and yard waste cart— check this list<sup>1</sup> to see if they are accepted.

**Note:** Restaurants may have composting collection programs that accept food service products found at [Cedar Grove Composting](http://cedar-grove.com/SPU.asp) (<http://cedar-grove.com/SPU.asp>). Many of these commercially-accepted products are not allowed in your *residential* food and yard waste cart because they are not distinguishable from plastic or other contaminants.

### These products are OK in your residential food and yard waste cart

*Note: Plastic-like compostable products will NOT break down in a backyard composting bin.*

#### Cedar Grove products: Look for the brown label or marking!



Deli and bakery wrap

**Brown-toned or tan trays used to package meat, poultry or fish at Metropolitan Market, Fred Meyer, Town and Country Markets Ballard and Greenwood, PCC or QFC. **White trays, regardless of labeling, are NOT acceptable.****



<sup>1</sup> A number of manufacturers are developing new compostable products. As they are field-tested and accepted for composting by Cedar Grove and SPU, they will be added to this list.

Uncoated, food-soiled paper plates and bowls (such as Chinnet brand), as well as greasy pizza boxes, paper napkins and paper towels all can go in your food and yard cart.



These products should go in your residential recycling

*Do NOT put these items in your food and yard waste.*

Clean plastic deli and take-out containers and cups. Do NOT recycle products with a #7 PLA symbol.



Clean coated-paper containers, milk cartons, and cups



## These products must go in your residential garbage

*These products are NOT recyclable or compostable at this time.*

- × **Plastic-like items which claim to be compostable or biodegradable, but are not accepted by Cedar Grove and SPU for residential food and yard waste. Do NOT recycle corn-based plastic-like products.** Bio-based plastics contaminate regular plastic recycling.
- × **Bagasse fiber trays.** Bagasse (sugar cane waste) has not broken down well in the composting system Seattle uses.
- × **Food-soiled, coated-paper plates.** Most paper plates are plastic-coated (except Chinet and plain paper plates).
- × **Utensils.** Utensils are not compostable or recyclable at this time, regardless of the material type.

### Related Links

[Where to Buy Approved Compostable Bags](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/FoodYardWaste-ApartmentResidents/WheretobuyCompostableBags/index.htm)

[www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/FoodYardWaste-ApartmentResidents/WheretobuyCompostableBags/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Yard/FoodYardWaste-ApartmentResidents/WheretobuyCompostableBags/index.htm)